

My name is Eugene Pentecost and my call sign is W4IMT. I was first licensed over sixty years ago. Amateur Radio played a dominant role in my decision to follow a path that led to a Bachelor, two Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical/Electronic Engineering. I enjoyed a very rewarding R&D career. When I retired I was a VP responsible for the Microelectronics Research and Development Center of a Fortune 500 company.

Since retirement I have been active and held offices in ham clubs, ARES/RACES, and currently am president of a Quarter Century Wireless Association chapter. I am a Volunteer Examiner for the ARRL, W5YI, and Great Los Angeles VECs.

I relate the above to qualify my opinions.

Amateur Radio has been overtaken by technology. Four of the five reasons given in Part 97 for its existence are barely valid. We need to attract the younger generation of computer literate individuals who are willing to adapt modern communication techniques to the hobby. These will strengthen the fulfillment of the current Part 97 obligations as well as help define **new** roles for amateur radio. The passing of a Morse Code test as requirement for any level of amateur radio license is irrelevant and a detriment to the continued health of the Amateur Service.

Please implement the current proposal.